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(DEFENSE)

WASHINGTON--THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE APPEARED CONVINCED TODAY THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH HAVE BECOME MORE ACCURATE.

THE OPINION WAS EXPRESSED BY SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., WHOSE COMMITTEE RESUMED CLOSED-DOOR HEARINGS ON THE NATION'S OVERALL DEFENSE POSTURE.

CALLED TO TESTIFY TODAY WERE ARMY SECRETARY ELVIS J. STAHR, JR., AND GEN. GEORGE H. DECKER, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.

THE COMMITTEE WAS GIVEN A HIGHLY SECRET BRIEFING YESTERDAY BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA AND GEN. LYMAN L. LEMNITZER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

RUSSELL SAID LATER IT TOUCHED ON CLASSIFIED MATTERS AND INCLUDED A ROUNDUP OF INTELLIGENCE DATA ON OVERALL U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH AS COMPARED TO THE COMMUNIST WAR POTENTIAL.

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